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BOROUGH OF PENRYN



REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1961



BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1961.

THE MAYOR OF PENRYN : Alderman F. M. Tallack, J.P.

CHAIRMAN : Alderman E. F. Wilde, B.Sc. Hons. (Econ.), F.R.G.S.

ALDERMEN : Mrs. B. N. Wilde, & E. W. Medlin.

COUNCILLORS : W. G. Beswetherick; J. Chinn; A. C. Dunstan;  
H. W. Gravestock; E. C. Gwyther; W. G. H. Kingdon, M.B.E.  
R. J. Oppy; R. S. Pascoe; S. Robins; D. H. L. Thomas;  
J. F. C. Tregenza; Mrs. D. M. Williams.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

V. E. Whitman, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.  
Health Area Office, 6, Lemon Street,  
TRURO. Tel. Truro 2202/3.

BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

J. W. Armstrong, M.A.P.H.I.,  
Municipal Offices, 15, Broad Street,  
PENRYN. Tel. Penryn 2289.

CLERK : Miss B. George.



Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitation of the Borough of Penryn during 1961.

The year was a healthy one. There was a short epidemic of measles which caused more cases than in any year for at least 12 years back. Most of the cases were mild, however, and complications few.

An outstanding event of the year was the setting up by the Old People's Welfare Committee of a Chiropody service for the aged. This proved so immediately popular that one is forced to the conclusion that a lot of people have been suffering a lot of discomfort for a long time. The other activities of the committee include meals on wheels, for which the demand has slackened off somewhat despite the high quality of the meals, and home visiting which meets the needs of those unable to attend the weekly club meeting.

Finally I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year and Mr. Armstrong for his loyal co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

V. E. Whitman,

Medical Officer of Health.





## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Except where otherwise stated the figures in brackets throughout the report are the comparable figures for 1960.

Area acres	829
Population	4,680 (4,330)
Number of inhabited houses	1,416 (1,418)
Rateable Value	£43,878 (£46,695)
Product of penny rate	£190.7.8. (£172.18.10)
Number of houses built or under construction since 1945.	540 (491)
Number of families on waiting list for houses	116 (161)

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Live Births

Males 47 (34)	Females 25 (30)	Total	72 (64)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor			0.93 (0.95)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population Penryn			14.3 (14.0)
Birth rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales			17.4 (17.1)

### Illegitimate Live Births

Males 6 (3)	Females 4 (0)	Total	10 (3)
Percentage of total live Births			13.9 (4.7)
Average over past 3 years			8.3

### Still Births

Males 0 (0)	Females 0 (2)	Total	0 (2)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, Penryn			0 (30.3)
Still birth rate, per 1,000 all births, England and Wales			18.7 (19.7)

### Deaths

Males 25 (28)	Females 26 (18)	Total	51 (46)
Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor			1.18 (1.14)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, Penryn			12.9 (12.1)
Death rate, per 1,000 population, England and Wales			12.0 (11.5)

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Males 2 (2)	Females 1 (0)	Total	3 (2)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, Penryn			41.7 (31.1)
Infant mortality rate, per 1,000 live births, England and Wales			21.4 (21.7)





# Statistics since 1950

The figures in brackets in this table are those for the U.K.

	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Still Birth Rate</u>
1950	19.1 (15.8)	11.6 (11.6)	NIL (29.6)	Nil (22.7)
1951	17.5 (15.5)	11.2 (12.5)	41.7 (29.7)	27.0 (23.0)
1952	19.5 (15.3)	10.1 (11.3)	24.7 (27.6)	14.0 (22.7)
1953	17.0 (15.5)	13.2 (11.4)	27.8 (26.8)	14.0 (22.5)
1954	19.9 (15.2)	11.4 (11.3)	56.1 (25.4)	21.2 (23.5)
1955	21.4 (15.0)	12.0 (11.7)	40.8 (24.9)	20.0 (23.2)
1956	16.9 (15.6)	12.7 (11.7)	25.6 (23.7)	12.7 (22.9)
1957	16.9 (16.1)	13.2 (11.5)	26.0 (23.1)	37.5 (22.5)
1958	15.8 (16.4)	12.9 (11.7)	41.7 (22.6)	76.9 (21.6)
1959	15.1 (16.5)	15.0 (11.6)	NIL (22.2)	14.3 (21.0)
1960	14.0 (17.1)	11.5 (11.5)	31.1 (21.7)	30.3 (19.7)
1961	14.3 (17.4)	12.9 (12.0)	41.7 (21.4)	NIL (18.7)

## ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	-	-	1	1	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	1	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	-	1	4	1	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	-	4	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	-	-	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	10	9	7	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	10	2	15	7	7



	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Coronary disease	3	11	9	9	6	5
Hypertension with heart disease	3	-	1	-	-	2
Other heart disease	8	5	7	7	6	6
Other circulatory disease	4	2	3	-	4	3
Influenza	2	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	2	2
Bronchitis	1	2	1	1	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	-	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	1	1	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-	1	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	-	2	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1	1	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	4	3	7	5	5	6
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	1	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	1	1	-	1	1
Suicide	1	2	-	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-
	50	50	49	57	46	51

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
0+	2 (2)	1 (-)	3 (2)
1 - 4	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
5 - 14	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
15 - 24	- (1)	1 (-)	1 (1)
25 - 44	1 (1)	1 (-)	2 (1)
45 - 64	4 (11)	5 (1)	9 (12)
65 - 74	7 (7)	3 (6)	10 (13)
75+	11 (6)	15 (11)	26 (17)
	25 (28)	26 (18)	51 (46)



PERINATAL MORTALITY, 1961.

	<u>Population</u> <u>Mid. 1960</u>	<u>Live</u> <u>Births</u>	<u>Still</u> <u>Births</u>	<u>Death within</u> <u>7 days</u>	<u>Perinatal</u> <u>Mortality</u>
Falmouth	15,020	265	8	4	44.0
Penryn	4,680	72	0	2	27.8
Truro City	13,460	182	1	4	27.3
Truro Rural	26,920	393	10	10	49.6
Health Area	60,080	912	19	20	42.3

Cornwall: Perinatal Mortality 1961 38.01

England and Wales: Perinatal Mortality 1961 32.2

The increase in the number of deaths, 51 as compared with 46, is more than accounted for by the deaths in the 75 years and over group which rose from 17 to 26.

1 of the infant deaths was due to congenital defect, one to prematurity and one to bronchiolitis, which in the present state of our knowledge is not preventable.

The only other figure in the vital statistics which seems to call for comment is the high illegitimacy rate. In 1960 and 1959, however, the figure was below the national average of 5.9%, thus illustrating the unreliability of averages and rates based on small figures.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.

1. Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinic

47 (49) sessions were held at which there were 1091 (1041) attendances. The average was thus about 23 (21) per session.

Dental Clinic - Owing to shortage of staff the dental clinic remained closed throughout 1961. All children and expectant and nursing mothers found to be in need of treatment were treated at the Falmouth clinic, however.

2. Ambulance Service and Hospital car Service

These services are based on Falmouth.

3. HOME HELP SERVICE

During the year 12 (6) maternity and 57 (58) other cases were given help in their own homes.

4. After-Care

No grants of free extra nourishment were made during the year.





<u>Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting</u>								
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
General cases	57	151	297	153	130	126	97	70
Nursing Visits	1,001	1,066	3,801	3,626	3,619	3,428	2,888	1,787
Midwifery cases	72	80	57	58	51	46	44	42
Midwifery visits	1,467	1,672	1,157	1,268	1,031	1,009	850	612
Ante-Natal visits	443	555	477	584	529	490	472	458
Home visits to children under 5	2,861	3,491	2,925	2,743	3,102	2,405	2,454	2,966
Home nursing visits to old persons	1,015	360	1,460	1,773	2,308	2,765	2,157	1,084
Health visits to old persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	590	223

Miss E. J. Jennings, Assistant County Nursing Officer reports:

"1961 saw the district nursing and midwifery covered by our valuable relief midwife, Mrs. Oliver of Falmouth aided by a part time general nurse, Miss Commander.

In september Miss Dore, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. took up her appointment as the permanent district nurse/midwife.

The years work has on the whole been lighter than for some time previously and the attendances at the Infant Welfare Centre have also declined.

Meals on Wheels and the chiropody services do valuable work. The chiropody service has lightened the load of the general district work in Penryn very considerably".

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>		<u>Measles</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 1 year	-	-	1	1
1 - 2	-	-	5	13
3 - 4	-	-	9	15
5- 9	-	-	24	18
10 - 14	-	1	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	-	-
	-	1	39	47
Total	<u>1</u>		<u>86</u>	

There was also one mild case of puerperal pyrexia.





Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

By the end of 1960 1,670 (1,533) persons had received at least 2 doses of poliomyelitis vaccine and of these 1160 (1027) had had 3 doses. Details are as follows:

	<u>Children under 16</u>	<u>16 - 25</u>	<u>Expectant Mothers</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Total</u>
2 doses	251	117	18	124	510
3 doses	925	119	30	86	<u>1160</u>
					<u>1670</u>

No case of the disease was notified during the year.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

During the year 55 (53) children under five were immunised against Diphtheria and 79 (104 booster doses were given.

On the 31st December, the estimated number of children between the ages of 1 year and 5 years inPenryn was 350 (287) of those 234 (182) or 66.9% (63.4%) had been immunised.

This slight improvement in the immunisation rate is very discouraging as the Health Visitors had to work really hard to achieve it. It is to be hoped the indifference of parents can be overcome before we have an epidemic of diphtheria in the borough.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15+</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number vaccinated	3	7	-	-	10
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	-	2	2

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>New Cases</u> <u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Deaths</u> <u>Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Under 15	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	<u>1</u>	-	-
	-	<u>1</u>	-	-

There were no new cases of or deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. On the 31st December, there were 37 (40) respiratory and 11 (11) non-respiratory cases on the register.



Rate per 1,000 population, Penryn 10.3 (11.8)

Rate per 1,000 population, Cornwall 6.7 (6.15)

Up to 31st December 654 (555) children, 102 (96) of them contacts with cases of tuberculosis, had received B.C.G. vaccination. 552 (459) were dealt with under the scheme for school leavers.



BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER, 1961.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I beg to submit my annual report for 1961. Although I cannot report anything spectacular, I feel progress has been maintained and conditions have improved within the Borough.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. Armstrong,

Public Health Inspector.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

The control of the milk supply has been taken over by the County Council. The Local Authority are responsible for registration of premises. 7 premises are registered within the Borough.

ICE CREAM.

24 premises are registered to retail ice-cream, in 20 cases pre-packed only. 11 samples were forwarded to the analyst, 8 being graded I and 3 grade II.

OTHER FOODS.

12 Certificates were issued in connection with the voluntary surrender of unsound food, comprising 536 tins of various foods weighing 660 lbs.

The question of the sale of a mouldy meat pie was investigated and a warning given to the retailer.

MEAT.

There are 4 butchers shops, all supplies are obtained from outside the Borough.





## STORAGE, PREPARATION & DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD.

There are 67 premises handling food supplies as follows:-

General Provisions, including open foods	23
Bakehouses	3
Bakers & Confectioners (Retail)	4
Sweetshops	10
Dairy	1
Fish & Chips	4
Greengrocers	5
Licensed Premises (2 serving meals)	10
Fish (retail & wholesale)	1
Wholesale dairy	1
Butchers	4
Wholesale food supplier	1

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

47 premises and 4 delivery vans were inspected under these Regulations. 16 various improvements were carried out. There was an improvement in the general appearance of all the premises and I feel a greater interest generally in the object of the Regulations.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplied by the Falmouth Water Undertaking has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

## DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

The sewage is collected at the pumping station in Commercial Road and pumped to the Falmouth Council's sewer in Trescobear Road, where it gravitates to a sea outfall at Pennance Point. This system continues to work most satisfactorily.

The Eastwood sewer has not yet been proceeded with. One drain connection was made across Commercial Road, connecting into the sewer, this will drain a new property and remove 2 connections now discharging into the river.

The settlement tank at Bissom was resited some 300ft further away from the houses.

82 inspections of drainage systems were made.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of some 10 properties on the fringe of the Borough all are on water carriage system and the majority connected to the Council's sewer.



## VERMIN & INFESTATION CONTROL.

Rodents: In connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 103 premises were treated for minor infestations of rats or mice. In addition regular inspections were made and necessary action taken along the river banks.

No charges were made for treatment carried out at dwelling houses. Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out when 32 and 45 manholes were baited and small takes recorded in 2 manholes, on each occasion in the St. Thomas Street area.

Insects: 3 houses were disinfested primarily for fleas. 88 wasp nests were destroyed.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

Refuse is collected weekly from all dwelling houses and trade premises within the Borough. 1268 loads were deposited at the Falmouth Borough Council tip.

31 notices were served upon owners to provide properly covered bins to their property.

### STREET CLEANSING.

There are 10.8 miles of streets within the Borough. 8.2 miles are swept as follows:- 2.2 daily; 1.3 twice weekly; 3.2 weekly; and 1.5 occasionally. The centre of the town receives some attention twice daily. The regular staff consists of two sweepers, equipped with street orderly carts, working on a beat system, with occasional assistance. Concrete litter containers are available in various parts of the town for temporary storage of sweepings. There are 12 litter bins readily available and these are regularly emptied.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

4 in number, situated in Mrelawney Park, Town Quay, Glasney Playing Feild and under the Town Hall in Market Street. They are cleaned daily, 7 acts of wilful damage were repaired.

No solution has been found in providing a suitable site for a new convenience in the centre of the town. The existing premises cannot be improved owing to the very limited accommodation and dangerous position from a road safety point of view.





### HOUSING.

There are 1416 habitable dwellings within the Borough. 571 owned by the Council. During the year 18 private dwellings were completed and 31 Council dwellings on the Permarin Estate.

### CLEARANCE AREAS - UNFIT HOUSES.

The 3 houses omitted from the St. Thomas Street - Bohill Clearance Areas have been improved in accordance with the scheme submitted to the Ministry Inspector. Closing orders were placed upon 5 houses in Pickets Yard.

The tenants are being re-housed as suitable accommodation becomes available. There are 8 houses in St. Thomas Street - Bohill area still occupied. 1 in Gray's Yard and 4 in Pickets Yard, 10 of these being singles.

### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

2 Discretionary and 9 Standard Grants have been approved.

### RE-HOUSING.

Every opportunity is taken to re-house families to accommodation more suitable for their needs. The housing of elderly persons, single persons and families of 2 whatever age, presents a very difficult problem.

The general waiting list remained steady during the year, approximately 116.

### HOUSING ACTS, 1936, 1957 and PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

As a result of informal action repairs have been carried out to 8 houses.

### RENTS ACT, 1959.

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received.

### DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957.

6 premises are registered in accordance with the above Act. Inspections have been made, some with the Police.

### AGRICULTURE (SAFETY WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

10 smallholdings have been reported upon, no action was considered necessary under Sections No. 3 and 5 of the Act.



FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS ACT.

Premises	No. on Register.	No of Inspect.	Written Notices	Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Section 1, 2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the L.A.	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A.	31	22	3	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	31	22	3	-

Particulars	No of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pros- ecutions were instit- uted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	4	-	3	-



